

# Toc H Journal

*Letters and articles are welcomed and are printed as individual points of view, and are not necessarily those of the Movement*

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### Cover Picture :

*Her Majesty the Queen, Patron of Toc H, with the Duke of Edinburgh and Sir Edmund Herring, President of Toc H Australia, at a review of Dominion troops*

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*Our New Administrator: JOHN CALLE, M.C.*

## *Knowing our stuff*

ONE OF OUR BRIGADES in Burma took part in an exercise which was a rehearsal of the real thing. Altogether it didn't go off too well, largely because many of the troops engaged hadn't a great deal of idea as to what it was all about. Afterwards the Brigadier assembled all the officers for an 'inquest' and, wagging a very stern finger at them, he said, "Gentlemen, you were slow: never let it be said that we were slow. Crack on, gentlemen, crack on!"

There's a much bigger war than that kind of war going on right now—a fight for the survival of moral and spiritual integrity both in this country and abroad. It won't do to adopt an attitude of blind optimism about the future. I believe that a lot of things will get worse before they get better: for example a lot of our dead-end kids are going to grow up into dead-end parents, with all that that will involve. A great deal has got to happen before the nation comes to a new realisation that this is God's world, a world in which life only begins to make sense when it is lived in accordance with His laws, which are simple, wise and good.

### **Where Toc H Comes In**

How soon people will turn from a poor way of life to a better way of life will depend tremendously on the number of men and women who are living samples of that better way. Here, surely, is where Toc H comes in. I still remember the shiver of pride I felt when I listened-in on the wireless to the Quaker theologian, Dr. H. G. Wood, saying that in his opinion the two most significant Christian developments in this country over the first half of the century were the Student Christian Movement and Toc H. Could it be true?

Only history will be able to make the answer—but we can make the history, provided that we know just what sort of a show we are and what therefore is the kind of thing that we ought to be doing. We the Members and we the Builders need to know our stuff: how else can the world know? And it comes as a painful shock to us sometimes to realise how little the world does know about us, as yet.

The epitaph on many a good society that has gone out of existence might well be "Inspiration overtaken by Ignorance". Years ago in the early days of the Workers' Educational Association old Bishop Gore said to them "You may become strong and clamorous, you may win a victory, you may effect a revolution, but you will be trodden down again under the feet of knowledge unless you get it for yourselves".

There are people in the world who would go so far as to suggest that Toc H has had its day. The answer to that is a simple and emphatic "Not if I know it!"

J.C.

## The Forward Committee

LAST YEAR'S Central Council resolved that a "FORWARD COMMITTEE" should be set up (see July JOURNAL); the steps taken by the Central and Area Executives have been briefly outlined (see November JOURNAL).

The Forward Committee holds its first meeting on January 7. Its members are as follows:—

JOHN CALLE, M.C., Administrator of Toc H (see September JOURNAL).

DONALD P. CHESWORTH, Overseas Secretary, International Union of Socialist Youth; Member of London County Council. (Non-member of Toc H).

THE REV. COLIN CUTTELL, Industrial Missioner, Diocese of Southwark. (Formerly of Tower Hill Branch, London Area Staff and Canada).

HARRY GELL, Headmaster of Rangefield Junior Mixed School, Downham, Kent. (Southend Village Branch and S.E. London Area Executive; formerly Chairman of S. London Area and member of Central Executive).

GEORGE E. HAYNES, C.B.E., Secretary, National Council of Social Service; President, International Conference of Social Work (non-member of Toc H).

RONALD S. SYMONS, C.I.E., an Assistant Secretary, H.M. Treasury. (Formerly of Delhi and Lahore Branches; Central Finance Committee and Chairman, Services Team).

R. JACK R. TREFUSIS, H.M. Foreign Office (Hon. Sec., London Central Branch).

J. GORDON TURVEY, Senior Field Secretary, National Association of Boys' Clubs. (Formerly on the Staff in North Western Area, N.Z., and Australia; wartime Commissioner, Middle East).

# *Far Cry*

## *Overseas Notes and News*

### WELCOME

IT IS ALWAYS GOOD NEWS to other members of the Family when they hear of new groups being formed or groups themselves becoming recognised as Branches. And this month there are two interesting "recognitions" to report, Lagos in Nigeria and Kampala in Uganda. Both are Lone Units. Both came into being at about the same time and both have a mixed African and European membership. This steady growth has been watched from Francis Street with the greatest interest and we wish them both many years of adventuring with a Christian purpose in the name of Toc H.

### INTRODUCING OURSELVES

During the early part of the 1930's the Overseas Office was the responsibility of Padre Harry Ellison, the first honorary and full-time Chief Commissioner for Overseas work. Now tradition has re-asserted itself for once again the work is being directed by minds fresh from business and administrative experience overseas. 'Tosher' Elliot (Lt.-Colonel W. R. Elliot, one of Tubby's early conquests in Calcutta) is now the Chairman of a small panel of Overseas Advisers consisting at first, of Sir Giles Squire, Sir Colin Jardine and Sir Harry Batterbee, with the addition of the Overseas Secretary as a convenient stooge. Beyond them, rather as a band of out-riders, there will be compiled a list of members and friends of Toc H who have specialised knowledge of conditions outside the United Kingdom and whose business is likely to send them about the world a good deal. As a means of keeping us all in touch with each other such ambassadors do a very real service.

'Tosher' comes to the office four days a week, and with Giles in support gives eye and ear to major day-to-day matters. Colin continues to be the Honorary Commissioner for

the Services and Sir Harry remains available for immediate action or advice when either is required within his familiar sphere. With this access of new experience and zest the influence of the Overseas Office will feel its way out into avenues hitherto unexplored and our brothers in other countries should be the more sustained because of it.



*Members of Lagos Branch and their friends. In the front row (left to right) I. D. VAUGHAN, SIDNEY BEREMAN (Cheadle Hulme), ABRAHAM ORDIA and DAUGHTER, Mrs. BENTON, DON BENTON (Hull), Mrs. ORDIA, COKER-DICKENS, SPENCER and FRANCIS*

### THE PRINCESS AND 'DUSTY'

It all began when 'Dusty' Miller asked someone from the British Council to speak at his Area General Members' monthly lunch in Nottingham and the visitor talked about all the overseas students living in a world of their own on the members' very doorsteps. Clearly something had to be done to welcome the innocents from abroad and initiate them into the mysterious ways of English life.

What better occasion for launching the process could there be than Guy Fawkes day, when the people rise as one man to burn the effigy of one who tried to do what everyone thinks ought to be done to any Government elected freely by themselves. So fourteen were first invited to lunch with a similar number of Area Members. They came from Pakistan and

New Zealand, India and the West Indies, the Gold Coast and goodness knows where else.

Guy Allen of Nottingham got up and told them all about the other guy, who he was and why, and what he did and why, et cetera. All very friendly and enjoyable. After lunch they separated and re-assembled in the evening at the headquarters of our friends the 87th B.P. Rover Crew, for some fun with fireworks arranged by the Rovers and Toc H jointly. Thirty-five overseas students came along this time, men and women, and the whole of the District was invited as well.

The *decor*, if I may put it that way, was provided by the presence of two delightful princesses from Thailand.

They were accepted by the home team with the *sang froid* (Phlegmish) of men who are accustomed to finding royal ladies by the score among the Women's Branches of the Notts & Derby Area. 'Dusty' (six foot three and titanic to match) appointed himself personal bodyguard to the smaller of them (four foot one, trim and friendly), a not so very high, shy, Thai princess.

There were, of course, refreshments. Each student was presented with a Nottingham bun and a firework and was shown how to ignite the one and chew the other; or it may have been the other way round—I get so confused. Then came another international touch,—the *pièce de résistance* (or 'bunfire'). Everybody stood around with mounting excitement awaiting the climax of the evening—the sudden, roaring inferno of flame which would engulf the guy and economically bake a sack of potatoes previously placed in position for that very purpose. After a time it caught on fire, and encouraged by a crew of puffing Rovers the climax gradually proceeded on its way. The potatoes and an Area Member's trousers were well cooked and the former distributed among the overseas students, in the proportion of one potato per overseas student.

But the bonfire and good fellowship did no more than melt the ice, and it is now Nottingham's fixed intention to build upon these firm foundations an edifice of good will which will strike a resounding blow on behalf of Notts & Derby racial understanding.

G.M.

# Rediscovering Toc H

*Toc H was born as a result of a great experience. Men who had shared the experience communicated it to others . . . Today the vital message which Toc H ought to blazon abroad is in danger of being embalmed in a language and society which belong to a day that is dead. This need not be. It must not be.*

HERBERT LEGGATE, in *The Tyranny of Words*.

*Here, in response to requests received from many members, is the first of a series of articles dealing with some basic things of importance to the Movement. The writer is MAYNE ELSON, South Western Area Secretary.*

## 1 — The Old House

THERE ARE SOME who say that the beginning of Toc H in World War I is ancient history now, of no interest to the youngsters of today. But *Tales of Talbot House*, which I have just been re-reading, is still one of our most popular publications. My copy was printed in 1928, the fifth impression: there have been at least four printings since. I wonder what the reviewers said about this book when it first came out. It seems nowadays to take a long time to come to the point, chiefly because Tubby loves to wander into literary by-lanes, but it is one of the most vivid yarns you could wish to read. Having finished it, you will have been inside Talbot House almost as if you had fought in the Salient.

The founders of the post-war Toc H Movement were inspired by a vision, as all founders have been, and to them the vision was already a reality because they had experienced it. I don't think they were very interested in organisation and 'machinery', though they realised the necessity for those things. All they wanted was a re-embodiment of their vision in 'civvy-street'. Some of us who came in later must have spoilt Toc H for some of them because we have never discovered the vision. What, then, is the picture we find in these pages?

First, there was always a welcome for people in the Old House. One gathers that however many newcomers had already dropped in that day, there was still someone there who seemed to be expecting you. If you wanted to unload a trouble or a grouse, you could unload it without being made



to feel that you were being a bore or detaining a busy man. You were very liable to be asked to do something; it might be easy, such as going round with fresh pen-nibs, or it might be something quite formidable, like speaking in a debate or auditing a year's accounts. We are told (but not in the *Tales*, oddly enough) that one of the many notices announced that in this house "The Guest of Today is the Host of Tomorrow". That should always be so in Toc H now.

Second, life in the Old House could never have been dull. (Life never is when Tubby is around!) A great *variety* of activities is set down in these pages. The unexpected must have happened pretty often. The grave and the gay must have succeeded each other with kaleidoscopic rapidity. Of course our Branches are not Services Clubs in war-time, but there is no earthly reason why they should be dull.

Third, it is clear that the men who used Talbot House in those days realised the only true meaning of "Abandon Rank". One of them has written: "Divested of rank—whether high or low—we assumed the common dignity of man". How different this conception is from the artificial heartiness one has sometimes met since! Every man—be his rank high or low—has his dignity. Christian names in Toc H should be the *result* of true familiar fellowship, not a device to promote it.

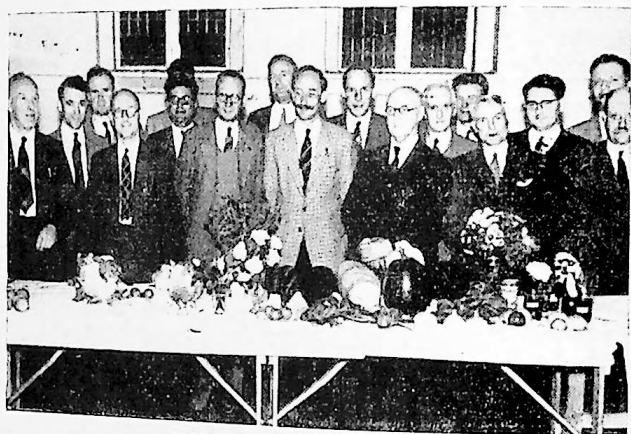
### Magnetic Humour

Fourth, the pages of this book sparkle like jewels with flashes of laughter. Obviously Talbot House attracted and challenged because it was a cheerful place. That must have been the magnet drawing men within the doors. Once they were there, more serious things held them. It was partly because Tubby himself is a humorist—he has never taken himself too seriously and I am sure he de-bunked those who did. Even in his chapter on the Upper Room, which we might well expect to be a serious one (as indeed it is) he digresses in order to describe how the floor was condemned with increasing finality by a succession of experts, the most learned of them "proving conclusively that the attic was wholly unsafe. After this we asked no more questions but opened the Chapel therein without more ado". So when I meet a member of Toc H who can't laugh at himself, I wonder what he is doing in it. If he sets the tone of his Branch, it's probably past praying for.

And what of the Upper Room itself? Men were welcome in Talbot House at all times, whether they climbed the steep ladder or not—I am sure many didn't. I am certain that although religion may have been freely discussed in the house, you didn't get it rammed down your throat. It was an Upper Room—but the house wouldn't have been the same without its presence, its atmosphere radiating down and through all the rest. The things for which it stood were made part and parcel of everyday life below. That is, or ought to be, the place of religion in Toc H today.

It is worth making the pilgrimage to Poperinghe, even in these expensive times, if only to climb that ladder, which so many climbed who did not come back home. "Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground". Once here, the Elder Brethren and the Ceremony of Light cease for ever to seem an outworn tradition and take their proper place as realities. But of these things, more later.

M.B.E.



### TOC H GARDENERS

Members of Toc H Welshpool recently held a horticultural show in aid of funds for their 'over sixty-fives' New Year party. A class for queer shaped potatoes was included, and the entries were afterwards auctioned realising £12.

# Multum in Parvo ~or much in little

ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, AT 8.25 P.M.:

TUBBY BROADCASTS HIS APPEAL FOR TOC H

✽ TUBBY acknowledges thankfully a number of donations, including some from friends who prefer to remain ANONYMOUS, sent to him with the slips enclosed in the December JOURNAL.

✽ TUBBY, *alias* The Rev. P. B. Clayton, C.H., M.C., Toc H, 47 Francis Street, London, S.W.1.

✽ JOHN CALLF begins his duties as Administrator of Toc H on New Year's Day.

✽ The Central Executive has thanked BARCLAY BARON for his work as Acting Administrator from April to December, 1953.

✽ COLIN WINTLE has been appointed Press Adviser to Toc H from January 1.

✽ THE OVERSEAS ADVISORY PANEL, appointed by the Central Executive, consists of Lt.-Colonel W. R. Elliot (Chairman), Sir Harry Batterbee, Major-General Sir Colin Jardine and Sir Giles Squire, with Geoffrey Martin as Secretary.

✽ The BORSTAL CONFERENCE will be held at 42 Trinity Square, London, E.C.3, from 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, January 30. Members are reminded (see December JOURNAL, page 327) that tickets (free) should be obtained from Alec Churcher at Headquarters without delay.

✽ The AUSTRALIAN FESTIVAL will be held in Perth, W.A., from February 5 to 14.

✽ On 'TRAVELLERS' DAY', December 4, over 250 Branches responded at short notice to the Dean of Westminster's request to make collections at Railway stations for the WESTMINSTER ABBEY APPEAL FUND.

✽ BRANCH EXECUTIVES are asked to ensure that MEMBERS' ROLLS reach their Area Secretary early this month.

## Subject to Audit

WE HAVE ACHIEVED a modest surplus in the annual accounts after bringing into credit nearly £3,000 from legacies, which would normally have been used for capital expenditure. The Marks did well and came out on the right side.

One-fifth of our total income was received in the last few days of the year. In order to avoid congestion we stagger hours of work and holidays: the only staggering done in Toc H is brought about by the heavy load of the overdraft during the greater part of the year.

*O wad some power the Gifftie gi'e us  
To make our Treasurers stagger wi' us!*

Never mind, it's a long road that has no turning and the financial road has always looked like a walking stick—narrow as a tight rope—with uplift at the end.

I must not anticipate the annual report but I can say that income from Home Membership is down by £1,177, and from Overseas Membership up by £737. Flood Relief and Coronation Year affected Home Membership to some extent. Some Branches have done wonders: one wonders what some other Branches ever do.

Special efforts are already under way, including an Area Whitsun Fête at Chatsworth. I hope *your* effort is already shaped and ready for launching.

The list of income opposite gives you a clear picture of your Area's combined effort during 1953. The averages are based on Membership figures recorded early in 1953: there is a big variation in the membership figures during the year but the starting manpower as recorded seems fairest all round to use for this purpose.

Expenditure has been kept down mainly because we are badly short of staff. It is largely for this reason that the accounts have been balanced.

I draw your particular attention to the statement regarding staff on Page 24.

J.H.

**TOC H AREAS INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31st OCTOBER, 1953.**

*Number of Members	Area	Average per Member from Membership only	Total	Members & Branches	Other Sources
			£	£	£
490	Beds & Herts ...	27/5	970	673	297
743	East Anglia ...	25/5	1,249	945	304
102	Ireland ...	12/5	78	63	15
793	Kent ...	31/4	1,459	1,242	217
420	Lakeland ...	20/7	489	432	57
707	Lincolnshire ...	22/1	996	782	214
484	East London ...	24/-	826	581	245
348	North London .	33/11	960	591	369
464	South London .	30/3	991	702	289
447	S.E. London ...	24/9	754	554	200
477	West London ...	26/7	1,067	634	433
756	Manchester ...	27/11	1,435	1,056	379
264	Marches ...	13/5	195	177	18
952	East Mids. ...	26/7	1,571	1,267	304
923	West Mids. ...	25/6	1,516	1,177	339
703	Northern ...	25/4	997	890	107
385	North Western .	22/5	562	432	130
512	Notts & Derby	22/2	1,050	568	482
278	Oxford & T.V. .	27/11	677	388	289
784	Scotland ...	20/2	1,189	792	397
872	Southern ...	24/5	1,271	1,066	205
1,543	South Western .	19/11	1,775	1,539	236
260	Surrey ...	26/6	716	345	371
426	Sussex ...	20/7	612	438	174
1,191	Wales ...	14/-	937	836	101
784	Western ...	28/2	1,434	1,106	328
224	East Yorks. ...	27/-	356	302	54
787	West Yorks. ...	16/11	835	666	169
17,119		23/8	£26,967	£20,244	£6,723

\* Compiled from Branch Rolls for 1953 and Area Members' records.  
 Elections and resignations during the year are not included.

# Jack Mac

The writer of this article is DOUGLAS HOYLE, a Radio Officer whose job permits him to be a living link between Australia and 'Home'.

"Have you heard of Jack Mac?" I ask. "Ah! Jack Mac. Let me think. Isn't he the bed-fast laddie in Melbourne, Australia? Yes, he is quite a legend over here."

TO THOSE who know him and have had the honour of meeting him, Mr. R. J. MacDonald, B.C.E., is more than a legend. He is a vital force in Australia that binds Areas and Branches of Toc H together, especially in the Victoria Area. Somewhere in the region of twenty-seven years ago Jack Mac had studied hard and passed examinations entitling him to wear the title of Bachelor of Civil Engineering. He was never allowed to follow his career in that capacity. That painful horror, rheumatoid arthritis, took hold of him, and very soon put him to bed for keeps, a breathing, immovable, rigid log. Jack Mac did not curse God in his affliction but cast about in his mind for a reason for this physical calamity. Having taken an academic interest in Toc H, he began to explore along those lines and instead of despair taking charge, opportunities opened up whereby he could use and develop his mind in the cause of mankind.

A tremendous power was born in Toc H Melbourne that drew men round him from all walks of life. To add to his affliction blindness overcame him. This did not deter him. Jack Mac employed Jesus Christ to help him out and a miracle was performed. He developed a 'blotting paper' mind that assimilated knowledge like a reservoir, and with the aid of educational records, music, poetry, and the works of authors and composers became his familiars. All this effort had only one aim, to show his fellow men that life does not end with physical incapacity so long as the brain, hearing and speech are capable of use. Jack Mac can make good use of all three gifts left to him. At number Eleven Loch Street, Camberwell, Victoria, Australia, a Toc H Branch grew. The last time I was privileged to visit there with George, from Leatherhead, there were forty members and visitors present.

Jack Mac's influence does not stop in the MacDonald Branch bedroom. He has a "Cobbers' Club" in Perth, Western Australia, consisting of twelve spastic children who send

their problems, and share joys and sorrows with him. His letters and addresses have a force and uplift a selfless quality which makes immediate contacts and friendships and builds up his life. Many eminent men have asked his advice on varied subjects, and he has lain there, working the problem out to its conclusion and the advice given has never been known to fail. The Toc H Women's Association have two typists who take his letters down in shorthand, taking it in turns to do this loving service for him.

I have visited him many times when in Melbourne and the time passes too quickly. Mrs. MacDonald, Jack's Mother, brings in a tray of tea, and delicious home-made buns. Jack Mac lights a cigarette (at least we light it for him) and then we talk.

About eighteen months ago he underwent an operation for appendicitis. When I saw Jack Mac a year ago (in November, 1952). I noticed a change. He was more relaxed, and flesh had formed on his body, and many of his joints had loosened. I rejoiced with him in his freedom from pain. When I reluctantly took leave of him, I asked myself "What have I to grumble or feel sorry for myself for, when life is not too happy?"

This is a very limited pen portrait of a lovable outstanding character, and the written word is a poor instrument with which to describe the unplumbed depths of soul and tranquility of spirit that a person feels when in Jack Mac's home. His surroundings are Toc H. The walls of his bedroom are adorned with photographs of Toc H members, poppies from Ypres, the "Lamp of Maintenance" and Banner are in a prominent position. Those who sit with Jack Mac know that he lives Toc H and Toc H lives in him. In the happiest sense, for Jack Mac's condition is not synonymous with grief and misery, with a fund of humour he links you to our Elder Brother.



JACK MAC a bedside portrait

D.H.



This is to be a year of experiment.

Encouraged by the use made of the Old House last year we have arranged for a Toc H "Courier" to leave London for Poperinghe on most week-ends during the summer months.

Each courier, we hope, will escort a mixed party of Toc H members and friends who will travel out as a party but return in their own time, as they wish.

*Members who prefer to travel on their own, or form their own parties, are of course encouraged to do so as in previous years.* The only difficulty anticipated is that of accommodation for everybody during the peak periods.

There will be three different types of outward-bound parties, all leaving London at different times, as set out below:

"A" Parties. One night in Bruges.

Leave Victoria about 10 a.m. on Friday.

Travel by mid-day boat from Dover to Ostend and continue by train to Bruges arriving 4.30 p.m. Spend evening and Saturday morning in the beautiful and interesting old City of Bruges. Leave by coach for Poperinghe approximately 2 p.m. Arrive at the Old House about 3.30 p.m. Spend remainder of Saturday and the whole of Sunday in Poperinghe. Visit Ypres and tour the Salient. Leave Poperinghe Sunday evening and travel by night boat from Dunkirk or Ostend to Dover, arriving Victoria about 9 a.m. Monday morning.

"B" Parties. Leave Victoria about 9 p.m. Friday. Travel by night boat to Dunkirk or Ostend. By bus to Poperinghe arriving about 7.30 a.m. Spend Saturday and Sunday in Poperinghe visiting Ypres and the Salient. Return London Monday morning as before.

"C" Parties. Leave Victoria about 10 a.m. Saturday. Go straight to Poperinghe via Ostend or Calais, arriving about 5.30 p.m. Spend rest of Saturday and Sunday in Poperinghe, visiting Ypres and Salient. Return London Monday morning as before.



The dates of escorted parties, and the names of the couriers, are given in the following table but we cannot guarantee that there will be no alterations or cancellations caused by unforeseen contingencies, *e.g.*, insufficient numbers to make up a party. With parties of fifteen or more the cost is reduced because of cheaper fares.

### PROPOSED PARTIES

(NOTE: May 3, Procession of the Holy Blood in Bruges—a famous annual event. Every Thursday coach trips from Bruges to Middleburg on Walcheren Island, Holland, where Thursday is market day).

<i>Party</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Route</i>	<i>Courier</i>	<i>Approx. cost</i>
No. 1	April 15	A	BARCLAY BARON	... £12 15s.
<i>(Easter. Leave Thurs. night, return London Tues. morning)</i>				
No. 2	May 29	C	JACK TREFUSIS	... £9 10s.
No. 3	June 12	B	NORMAN DRUCE	... £10 10s.
No. 4	June 19	C	MRS. MAY LEWIS	... £9 10s.
No. 5	June 25	A	JACK HARRISON	... £10 15s.
No. 6	July 2	B	JACK FISHER ...	... £10 10s.
No. 7	July 17	C	LESLIE GOSDEN	... £9 10s.
No. 8	July 23	B*	OLIVER WILKINSON	... £6 10s.
No. 9	July 30	A	MISS ELSA PERRIN	... £11 10s.
<i>(Bank holiday week-end, return London Tuesday morning)</i>				
No. 10	Aug. 7	C	CHARLES JACKSON	... £9 10s.
No. 11	Aug. 13	B	S. CANHAM	... £10 10s.
No. 12	Aug. 28	C	JACK CLARK	... £9 10s.

The meticulous task of dealing with enquiries and bookings, and generally getting the parties formed, has been most gallantly undertaken by a member of the Women's Association working from her own home.

Therefore, please, on any matter connected with these specific parties write direct to *Mrs. A. Tett, Newlands, Money Hill Rd., Rickmansworth, Herts. (Tel.: Rickmansworth 3740).*

All other bookings or enquiries should go as usual to "The Old House Secretary", Toc H Headquarters, 47 Francis Street, S.W.1.

\* This party is a 'try out' for tough members. It is confined to a week-end, utilising the British Railways excursions to Ostend leaving London Friday night, spending Saturday night at Talbot House, returning to London on Monday morning, carrying two days' food, visiting the Salient. If meals are bought in Poperinghe allow about £1. 10s. 0d. extra. Members of the party cannot return at any other time.

# A Bag of Books

*If unable to obtain any book reviewed in these pages from your local bookseller please contact Toc H Publications Dept.*

*Where the cost of books is more than some members can afford, readers may like to be reminded that they can often be obtained through their local Public Library.*

## BOYS' CLUBS

*Making Men.* By W. McG. Eagar (University of London Press. 20s.)

This imposing book bears the sub-title of 'The History of Boys' Clubs and Related Movements in Great Britain', and much research has gone to its making. When the author poses the question, "Where and when was the first boys' club started?" he has to go a long way to find the answer. The answer seems to be the Cyprus Boys' Club, founded in 1872 in the parish of St. John the Divine, Kennington, not far from our own 'Brothers' House' (Mark XIII). So far as anyone knows, the word *Club* was used there for the first time in connection with work for boys, as it had been used, exactly twenty years earlier, in connection with men in a poverty-stricken neighbourhood. But the whole story goes much further back than that and has its origins in the Charity Schools of the eighteenth century, of which the artist-poet Blake wrote some immortal verses. These provided popular religious education long before the Act of 1870 made education of any kind universal and compulsory in our country.

From that distant point this book leads us on through some of the hideous features of the Industrial Revolution, which many other books have laid bare, to the awakening of the comfortable Victorian conscience in the mid-nineteenth century, that 'pain in the mind' among some high-souled politicians and heroic women and earnest young men which produced the early Factory Acts, the Ragged Schools and the Mechanics' Institutes. In the main this was the Evangelical revival discovering a social gospel and a practical outlet for its faith.

Great names emerge one after another in the story—names like Charles Kingsley, the Christian Socialist, and Tom

Hughes, the author of *Tom Brown's Schooldays*, Samuel Barnett, the founder of Toynbee Hall, Octavia Hill, General Gordon and Doctor Barnardo. In the particular field of 'boys' work' the succession of great names continues—Quintin Hogg, founder of the Regent Street Polytechnic, and the Hon. Tom Pelham, who started Homes for Working Boys in 1870 (both of these began their apprenticeship for their ventures in the old Ragged Schools), 'Billy' Carter (later Archbishop of Cape Town) who opened the first Public School mission in 1880, Dr. John Stansfeld in Bermondsey in 1897, C. E. B. Russell in Manchester (he later went to the Home Office in charge of Reformatories), Oliver Hind in Nottingham, notable leaders in Liverpool, Bristol and many other places. Like the work of the pioneer reformers of the nineteenth century in the cause of young people, all these boys' club ventures were grounded in outspoken Christian conviction, in whatever denomination it was rooted.

All this history is recorded in the book in much detail, as is also the co-ordination of the mass of scattered efforts by the formation of the National Association of Boys' Clubs, in which Mr. Eagar himself played a leading part. The record cannot be reckoned complete but the sum total in these pages makes up a work of reference which is not elsewhere to be found between the covers of one book. It does not, however, make for easy bedside reading: that was not its intention.

Where the author most conspicuously fails is in fulfilling the terms of his sub-title. When he comes to his 'History of Related Movements' the reader looks for a reasonably adequate appreciation of the two chief boys' organisations which run parallel to the Clubs—the Scouts and the Brigades, which spring from the genius of two remarkable men, 'B-P.' and Sir William Smith. Frankly his attitude to these "partners in the other ships" which are fishing for boys is rather patronising, sometimes even flippant. To devote over four hundred pages to Boys' Clubs and then to head the seven given to the Boys' Brigade "Moral Militancy" and the ten given to Scouting as "Humanitarian Woodcraft" is a good deal more smart than just.

B.B.

### DOWN TO EARTH

*Saints in Hell*: by Gilbert Cesbron. (Secker & Warburg 12s.6d.)

This is a very moving novel, thoroughly mixed up with fact. It gives an outline of the priest-workman movement in the

great working-class areas of Paris. In the district chosen by the author slum conditions prevail which are a good deal worse than any known in this country for a good many years. Whether the picture painted is exaggerated in order to give force to the argument or whether it is substantially true, the fact remains that we have outlined for us a tremendously moving account of what was one of the great attempts to communicate the eternal truths of the Christian Gospel to the multitudes of people for whom institutional Christianity has ceased to have any significance. Unfortunately much of the force has recently been taken from this movement through the decisions made by the hierarchy, helped perhaps by the French parochial system. No one reading the book can fail to be shaken from their complacency and moved to ask how far the existing Christian institutions measure up to the needs of the populations at both ends of the social scale and in between, and to feel the need for a more passionate manifestation of the Christ of love operating in a Christian community created from harlots and drunkards, ecclesiastics and professionals. *Saints in Hell* tells the story of such a community led by a man wholly identified with his Lord and therefore wholly identified with His children—children found in the Archbishop's palace (in the person of the Archbishop) and in the incredible slums of Sagny. All thinking Christians should read this book.

N.M.

### 3rd impression

## TOUCHING THE ADVENTURES . .

### OF MERCHANTMEN IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Edited by J. LENNON KERR

"A book really worth buying!"—*Manchester Guardian*.

With line illustrations. 12s. 6d.

## HARRAP

See "*Mobile Men*", page 332 *Dec. Journal*.

# The Elder Brethren

*There be of them that have left a name behind them. And some there be which have no memorial. But these were merciful men, whose righteousness hath not been forgotten. Their bodies are buried in peace, but their name liveth for evermore.—Ecclesiasticus, xlv.*

ANDREW.—On November 2, LEONARD MOY ANDREW, aged 57, a member of Newport, (I.O.W.), elected 13.3.'42.

ARTER.—On November 18, BERTIE GEORGE ARTER, aged 67, a member of Ramsgate Branch. Elected 22.10.'46.

BAILEY.—On September 20, EDWARD BAILEY, aged 75, a member of Exmouth Branch. Elected 5.12.'32.

BAILEY.—On October 25, JOHN STEADMAN BAILEY, ('Steady'), a member of Ramsgate Branch. Elected 25.8.'38.

BARNES.—On November 15, WILLIAM C. BARNES, aged 42, a member of Edinburgh Branch. Elected 31.10.'34.

BATHE.—On August 14, GEORGE FREDERICK BATHE, aged 49, a member of Wroughton Branch. Elected 8.6.'40.

BUSH.—On November 10, HAMILTON BRINSLEY BUSH, a member of Radlett Branch. Elected 22.1.'48.

COVILLE.—On November 10, WILLIAM HENRY COVILLE, aged 69, a member of Saltash Branch. Elected 8.4.'49.

DARBY.—On October 19, HAROLD DARBY, aged 71, a member of Aysgarth Branch. Elected 14.1.'52.

GREEN.—On October 15, The Rev. Prebendary HARRY JOHN GREEN, a former member of Chippenham Branch. Elected 27.11.'33.

GREENE.—On October 20, ARTHUR GREENE, M.D., F.R.C.S., I., aged 77, a member of East Anglia General Branch and formerly of Norwich Branch. Elected 1.8.'22.

HALL.—On August 12, CHARLES HALL, aged 65, a member of Carlin How Branch. Elected 17.4.'52.

HARPER.—On November 22, JACK HARPER ('Friday'), a member of Leamington Branch. Elected 17.2.'30.

LAWS.—On October 25, The Rev. HAROLD STEWART LAWS, M.A., L.S.T., aged 69. For many years Padre of the Women's Association Branch at Montreal, Canada.

MUMFORD.—On November 5, BERTRAM CHARLES MUMFORD, aged 61, a member of Brighton and Hove Branch. Elected 19.4.'32.

ROGERS.—On November 13, ROBERT ARCHIBALD ROGERS ('Pop'), aged 64, a member of St. Thomas (Exeter) Branch. Elected 4.2.'43.

SONES.—On November 5, HARRY VIVIAN SONES ('Tod'), aged 63, a member of Banbury Branch. Elected 20.12.'48.

THOMPSON.—On October 25, HOWARD THOMPSON, aged 49, a member of R.H.H.I. Branch. Elected 3.12.'47.

## Ritz to Rotherhithe

ONCE MORE Toc H is indebted to the "Not-Forgotten" Association for the use of their luxury ambulance coach which enabled us to take a further twelve chair-patients from the British Home and Hospital for a tour of London. The hours were spent in visiting the City and the West End, the Palace of Westminster and the Abbey, The Mall and Buckingham Palace.



*A chair-patient being wheeled into the "Not-forgotten" Association's coach*

Hyde Park, dressed in the glory of its autumn colouring, was a joy to our guests (one patient had not seen Hyde Park for sixty years). We saw the Zoo from outside and Broadcasting House and the outside only of Madame Tussauds, but Mr. Edds, the Chief Executive Officer of the Waxworks, compensated by coming to the coach and giving a brief talk. He gave each patient a souvenir booklet and a Medallion, also an invitation to visit the Waxworks in the Spring, when patients will be their guests.

We saw Trafalgar Square and Piccadilly and went through Rotherhithe and approached the Tower of London, our next call, *via*

Tower Bridge. We were received at the Tower by Yeoman Warder, G. A. E. Gavey, himself a member of Toc H, who boarded the coach and, while acting as guide gave us all a lecture. He was so thorough that we were convinced that he knows and loves each brick in the famous stronghold. One wonders what the ghosts of Tudor kings and queens must have thought to see a full-sized bus wend its way round the ramparts and right into Tower Green.

What was needed now by our guests was a cup of tea and where better to receive that than at '42'. The party was welcomed by Padre G. Thompson, The Warden, and "Uncle Bill". The memorable visit to London was now growing to its close and we turned homewards through the lighted streets of the City and Piccadilly. Neon signs flashing *au revoir* to twelve patients whose comments were evidence enough that the afternoon had been well spent.

J.A.

## P.B.C. & B.B.C.

*On Sunday, January 10 at 8.25 p.m., on all B.B.C. Home Services. TUBBY will be speaking for Toc H. This is what he has written about the Broadcast:*

**I** WILL DO MY BEST; that is all that I can promise and we must hope and pray for good results.

If 20,000 members of Toc H agreed to pray for a widespread response in actual money and in membership, we need then have no fear as to the results.

Our outlook upon 1954 presents us with two clear alternatives: one is defence, caretaker maintenance, first-aid repair in lieu of restoration and doing all we can to keep afloat. The other is a very different scene: major ability to mend our nets, a Padre and a layman at each post, Marks brought up to date and some rebuilt, and more Marks added where the need is urgent. A central training college and journeys undertaken overseas by men in pairs, well matched, well qualified, with active growth in the four Services.

The time will come again for these events, but will it come again in '54? The answer rests in God Almighty's Hands. He wants to see us earnestly at prayer, both at Headquarters and at the Guild Church and through the body of the membership.

Yours always,

TUBBY.

# Toc H Staff in Areas and Marks

THESE TWO TABLES show the deployment of paid members of the Staff in the United Kingdom, including three about to join their Areas. In seventeen Areas the work is seriously affected by there not being the normal complement of two men, padre and lay. There are priority needs for four Padres and two Secretaries in six Areas and for two Mark Padres and two Mark Pilots. (These figures do not include the needs of Toc H in oversea countries, including Africa, Australia, Canada, the Far East, India, New Zealand and Lone Units.)

Area	Dists. Units		Area Padre	Area Secretary
Northern	8	45	<i>None</i>	C. V. Young
Lakeland	5	24	<i>None</i>	I. Fraser
North-Western	5	26	F. J. Green (Jan.)	<i>None</i>
Manchester	11	48	S. F. Jolliffe (Feb.)	G. L. Lee
West Yorks	10	58	N. F. W. McPherson	J. W. Maddock
East Yorks	4	16		
Lincolnshire	8	46	S. R. Bolton	<i>None</i>
Notts & Derby	7	37	<i>None</i>	G. A. Francis
W. Midlands	11	64	<i>None</i>	J. H. M. Shaw
E. Midlands	13	62	<i>None</i>	C. Stevenson
East Anglia	9	48	<i>None</i>	R. D. Smith
Beds & Herts	9	34	R. J. Davies, p.t.	<i>None</i>
Ox. & T. V.	4	22	<i>None</i>	O. M. Wilkinson
Western	9	51	H. F. Sawbridge	W. F. Brooker
S. Western	13	89	<i>None</i>	M. B. Elson
Southern	11	50	R. W. Tuesday	A. S. Greenacre
Kent	8	45	<i>None</i>	C. A. Cattell (Mar.)
Sussex	5	30		
Surrey	4	16	J. F. L. Durham	<i>None</i>
W. London	6	28		
N. London	4	18	A. A. H. Duff	C. D. Adams
E. London	6	35		
S.E. London	6	29	<i>None</i>	R. L. Wheatley
S. London	4	21		
Wales	14	76	J. I. Jones	B. K. Davies (Feb.)
Marches Divn.	3	16	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
Scotland	12	44	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
N. Ireland/Eire	2	7	<i>None</i>	J. B. MacMillan
Total Staff				<i>None</i>

for  
28 Areas: 10 Padres in 13 Areas. 17 Secretaries in 21 Areas.  
No Padres in 15 Areas. No Secretaries in 7 Areas.



Mark	Mark Padre	Mark Pilot
(not including Honorary Mark Padres and Branch Padres)		
I, II, III, VII, XIII, XX } and XXII, London }	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
IV, Manchester, XIV, Sal- } ford and XXIV, Liverpl. }	<i>None</i>	J. E. Lucas
V, Southampton	R. W. Tuesday, A.P.	<i>None</i>
VI, Birmingham	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
IX, Bristol	R. Blake Brown, p.t.	<i>None</i>
XI, Leicester	E. J. C. Hasleden, p.t.	<i>None</i>
XVI, Swindon	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
XVIII, Newcastle	O. C. Dickenson, p.t.	<i>None</i>
XXI, Derby	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
XXIII, Leeds	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>

Total Staff

for 4 part-time Padres. 1 Mark Pilot in 3 Marks.

18 Marks: *No Mark Padres or Pilots in 11 Marks.*

PRIORITY NEEDS: *In Areas: 4 Padres and 2 Secretaries.*

*In Marks: 2 Padres and 2 Pilots.*

The Central Executive are convinced that no real forward move can be made until the staffing position is improved.

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HARDEN'S BLUE LABEL TEA 4/8 per lb. • HARDEN'S CEYLON TEA 5/- per lb.

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## Challenge of our Times

“ . . . and now, Mr. Expert, may I, on behalf of the Warlingham Branch of Toc H, extend to you a very hearty welcome and say how much we are looking forward to your talk on ‘Racial Relations’, especially as we know you have spent so many years in Africa”. “Do please, however, allow us time for questions, as we are simply whales at questions”. How often have we heard those words, or others very similar, at a Branch meeting? Or, perhaps the subject to be discussed was ‘Commercial Television’ or ‘Juvenile Delinquency’ or ‘Football Pools’ or ‘The Church and Divorce’ or any of the many controversial questions that excite public opinion for the time being. What, though, has been the subsequent development? As a result of such a meeting and discussion members have broadened their outlook and may have enjoyed their moments of airing their own pet theories. The Branch may even have passed a formal resolution deploring things as they found them and urging the Movement to do something about it. It is probably very true to state that all have been actuated by the highest motives but—and here is the rub—nothing tangible has been done. Why? Surely the time has come for some positive action on such matters and less talking?

Many members feel that the 1953 Report of the Central Council Meeting was the best they have been privileged to read. It has certainly evoked more discussion and controversy within the Movement than any of its predecessors. The focal point was, of course, the discussion which centred round the Council’s most reluctant refusal to confirm its then Administrator in office. Thereby ended what might have been for Toc H a new era, and who is there to say whether it would have been a dismal failure or a resounding success?

As I see it the principle at stake was whether or no we should take a definite stand on matters of great public interest—which of necessity must be of a highly controversial nature—and thereby attempt to influence public opinion. Is it not also true that in the past we have had many such discussions at Branch, District, Area and Council levels on such very matters but as a result there has been the minimum of positive action? Have we not become masters in the art of sitting on the fence? Surely the only answer is “Yes”.

It is, undoubtedly, very difficult to accurately define how far within the aims and objects of the Movement we can venture along the rocky road of attempting to influence public opinion. One thing, though, is abundantly clear and that is we must never allow ourselves to become just another debating society.

Our Royal Charter states, *inter alia*, that one of our objects is to endeavour to create a body of public opinion free of all social antagonisms. Read out of its context this aim seems to be clear enough and if we are fairminded we must acknowledge that, as stated previously, our aim has been off the target.

What must also be remembered is that all questions which excite the public mind in addition to being of a highly controversial nature have a political facet and hitherto we have left all politics out of our Family discussions. Unfortunately for a clear appreciation of these questions we cannot afford to ignore the political aspect any more than we can ignore the religious aspect. What then is the solution?

First, *why is Toc H?* Toc H is "Everyman's Club" sprung from the depths of human fellowship experienced in the tumult of the first major assault by the sword upon our modern civilisation. It is essentially a Christian Family with very definite ideals and aspirations and a Family whose members are scattered the world over. In common with all large families those members have many similarities and many dissimilarities. To attempt to weld such a family into a homogeneous whole would be impossible and fatal.

Compared, however, with mankind as a whole, it is still a small Family but that is no reason why it should be a dumb one. Three decades ago the earliest statement of our aims was drawn up: two years afterwards there followed the terms of our Royal Charter and of our Main Resolution. They are as effective in 1953 as they were in 1922, in fact age has only tended to add to their original effectiveness.

To crystalise it, we have pledged ourselves to strive:

"To listen now and always for the voice of God.

"To know His will revealed in Christ and to do it fearlessly, reckoning nothing of the world's opinion or its successes for ourselves or this our family; and towards this end:

"To think fairly, to love widely, to witness humbly, to build bravely."

Surely then we must accept the challenge of our times and tackle these great questions of public interest and by word and deed try to stimulate and formulate public opinion. To try to stimulate is not enough, we must try to formulate and we shall certainly not do so by means of discussion and debate, by the passing of resolutions and by declarations of policy. In this way lies the complete disintegration of Toc H. On the other hand we must cease to sit on the fence and it is imperative that we let our Light shine as we are commanded to do. If men see our good works and glorify our Father which is in heaven then it must become apparent to others besides ourselves that the materialism of 1954 is not everything.

Secondly, *whither Toc H?* Those of us who had the thrill of participating in our Festival Service in Westminster Abbey were uplifted at the time by the very thought of treading where our gracious Queen had trod when she so wonderfully re-dedicated herself to our service. What have we thought about it since and, what is far more important, what have we done?

One aftermath of the Coronation was to bring to the fore that currently a great spiritual struggle is developing in this country. Many have urged that if this country is again really to lead in world affairs there must be a resurgence of practical Christianity. The Coronation intensified this through the medium of the radio, television and the cinema screen. Many thousands, who had never before understood nor appreciated it, realised that they were participating in a wholly remarkable sacramental service. On the other hand some did not hesitate to make public their distaste; they described the whole ceremony as a bore. There also remained a hard core of doubters—the 'Don't know' or 'Couldn't care less'—between these two extremes of opinion.

Surely the inspiration gained in June, 1953, should not be allowed to go by default? Surely such inspiration can produce a militant Christian of such a calibre to exclude certain policies in public and private life. A practical Christian who will give eight hours' work for eight hours' pay; who will recognise that the labourer is worthy of his hire; who will abhor graft and favouritism; who will honestly and fearlessly call a spade a spade—in short one who at all times will think fairly, love widely, build bravely, witness humbly? Who will, indeed, be a Queen's man and a Christian—who will by

thought and deed be an idealistic and practical member of the great Family of Toc H. Above all one who will be *alive*.

Such an object will not be attained—and it is worth trying to attain—if we keep our discussions as a 'closed shop' and if we do nothing, as we have been guilty in the past of doing nothing, but talk. It is our bounden duty and our heritage to try to stimulate and formulate public opinion on these great questions and we should lose no opportunity of sponsoring public discussions, writing to our elected representatives both Council and Parliamentary, serving in public capacities, writing to our local and national newspapers and individually and as a Movement not afraid to voice our opinions.

If we live Toc H, the Movement itself will surely live and our Main Resolution will be something more than just beautiful phraseology.

H.J.T.B.

### ONION SETS FOR SALE

**W**ISBECH (CAMBS) BRANCH offer non-bolting Yellow Giant onion sets (small treated bulbs) for mid March to mid April delivery. These processed sets grow a good crop of keeping onions of huge size on most soils. They resist fly and mildew and mature one month earlier than onions grown from seed. Price 4s. 9d. per 100 post free or 30s. per 1,000. Cash with order. Growing instructions free. Profit from sales to Family Purse. Please clearly mark orders 'Toc H' and send direct to:

Stanley E. Marshall (Dept. T.H.), Albion Place, Wisbech.



*Where there's cooking  
there's*

**OXO**

## Branch Briefs from all quarters

◆ A rota kept by BERKHAMPSTED ensures that any friendless patients in the local hospital are paid regular visits.

◆ In a popular Quiz, sponsored by *The Norfolk News*, a team from SPROWSTON scored a highly creditable percentage of 67.36.

◆ WOLVERTON has more than a hundred Toc H Builders. This is

believed to be the highest number attached to any one Branch in the world.

◆ A short history of KIMBERWORTH, who have just celebrated their Twenty-first Birthday, is being written by an eighteen-year-old Rotherham girl, whose hands are crippled with infantile paralysis.

◆ Litter bins, made from 28 lb. jam jars, have been presented by NEWENT to their local Rural District Council. They have also recently opened an 'Over Sixty' Club for elderly people.

◆ Running commentaries of local Rugby League and divisional Soccer games to patients in local hospitals has now been taken up by HUDDERSFIELD.

◆ A new panel of blood donors is being organised by LEIGH (Essex).

◆ Two parties of fatherless children were sent last year by SHREWSBURY for a holiday in Anglesey making a total of fifty for this annual job.

◆ A mobile shop, selling sweets, notepaper, stamps and other items is being provided by PETERBOROUGH to tour the wards of the Memorial Hospital three times a week.

◆ The 'open' prison at Grendon Underwood was recently visited by a concert party organised by BICESTER with a full variety programme.

◆ A twenty-point memorandum has been sent from BALHAM to the committee which is to enquire into the working of the London Transport Executive.

◆ A new light on the stairway at SOUTHBOROUGH'S meeting room is a gift from WINNIPEG, Canada, presented through a member at present on holiday in England.

## *Free Window Insurance*

EARLY CLOSING DAY in the Rhondda Valley sees an exodus of shopkeepers and workers to Cardiff. Usually Bert Salvidge and his wife of Herbert Street, Treorchy, are with them, but not last Thursday. His half-day was spent taking circulars around three rows of new Council houses, asking the parents of young boys to attend in the Toc H.

Knowing that boys will be boys—which means broken windows among other things—Bert and other members of the Toc H decided on a policy of winning the friendship of local youths, rather than punishment. Situated as it is near popular playing haunts, the Branch received one night alone, five broken panes! So, arguing that if the boys had an interest in the building they would safeguard it, the Treorchy Branch of the Toc H are for the first time since their inception over twenty years ago, contemplating starting ambulance, carpentry, and P.T. classes for the youngsters.

Breaking new ground in this way with the young 'uns, they have gone a step further this week by throwing open the doors of their Branch to the old 'uns. For the first time, over five hundred old aged pensioners in Treorchy will have a place of their own. No longer will they have to spend their leisure hours walking the roads, or talking on street corners. Now they can pass the day comfortably in the Club, playing cards, dominoes or darts, or sit around the fire talking of the "good old days".

This Toc H building is the symbol of the sacrifice and hard work of clerks, shop assistants, miners and teachers. In the beginning members met wherever a room could be booked, and twice they met around a street lamp post!

With the money from "Who'll buy a brick" campaign, plus a bank loan, they ordered a sectional building. It arrived one Sunday afternoon and word went round to all members to change into working clothes at once. Without a builder in their ranks, fun and games started with erection, and there are many now who can recall rushing to hold up the falling side pieces with brooms because these had been erected before laying the floor! The good work that has been done by the Treorchy Toc H is well known in the district.

*Reprinted from HERALD OF WALES, 10.10.53*

# Open Hustings Letters to The Editor

*The Editor welcomes letters on all matters concerning Toc H. For reasons of space the right is reserved to shorten letters received, but every effort is made to print a representative selection.*

## Commercial T.V.

MY DEAR EDITOR,

I invite all fellow members to support The Earl of Halifax (a President of Toc H) in his protest against the proposals of Her Majesty's Government as outlined in the White Paper on Television Policy. Surely such a powerful instrument as television must not be allowed in any but the most impartial hands?

Yours ever,

GREENO.

*Chandlers Ford, Hants.*

## 'Passing the Buck'

DEAR EDITOR,

There is something wrong with Toc H? Blame the Central Executive — blame H.Q. — blame Area Executives! But what about Branches and the rank and file membership? If there is something wrong are they entirely free from blame?

At a recent London District Conference it was said and generally agreed that Branches and the membership are too apt to 'pass the buck' and condemn the Central Executive and H.Q. for any present failures or apparent weak-

nesses in our Movement, without considering that the fault, to some extent, must lie with them.

The strength and success (or otherwise) of Toc H is truly shown only through the life and work of our Units and if they are inept, inefficient, or just sentimentally vague, the Movement is bound to be equally ineffectual and blameworthy whatever H.Q. and the Central Executive say or do. It is time we, the membership, realised our responsibilities, faced up to the challenge and dropping our often too casual approach and method, set about making our Branches worthy of recognition as Toc H Units. A weak and unreliable Branch can do much harm to the Movement, dishonouring its name and betraying its ideals and, what is even worse, failing the local community who, although comparatively few of them share the Branch's fellowship, ought to know and be able to trust it in whatever service it undertakes.

By all means constructively criticise our organisation and H.Q. administration but don't let us do this if we are content to sit in a cheerless, dusty, room listen-



ing, after endless meandering business, to a talk on cockroaches with a break for dark brown tea from cracked and handle-less cups! By all means let us demand more inspiration from our leaders but not if we argue the *pros* and *cons* of every Job request until we talk ourselves out of action, or forget our visitors, ignore any call for District co-operation and glower every time the treasurer mentions the financial liabilities of the family as a whole.

We are members of Toc H—*We are Toc H* and success or failure rests in *our* hands. We cannot 'pass the buck'.

CHASE DISTRICT TEAM.  
*Tottenham, London, N.17.*

### Films

DEAR EDITOR,

If Toc H film units and members interested in showing 16 mm. films would care to pool knowledge, may I suggest the following schemes? A member could act as collector of information sent in by units and members interested in films, and from it compile, as often as desirable, a letter giving addresses of film sources, reviews and recommendations, hints on practical problems, etc. This letter could be sent on from one to another of those taking part in the scheme.

I am not in the best position to do so, but in the absence of any other volunteer, I would be willing to undertake this job experimentally.

Yours in Toc H,

WILL BIRD.

31, Culverden Park Road,  
*Tunbridge Wells, Kent.*

### Colour Bar

DEAR EDITOR,

Whenever a missionary who has widely travelled comes home his impressions are always listened to.

I have a friend, a student from West Africa. He must travel twelve miles to work from a hostel because nobody in the locality will accept him.

We hear so much today of the unrest in our great Commonwealth, and we are quelling it with guns and bombs.

I wish this young man could return to his native land as an ambassador of the goodwill and friendship bestowed upon him.

DAVID G. WALKER.  
*Stafford.*

### First-Hand Story

DEAR EDITOR,

Harpenden Branch recently had a speaker from the United Nations Association on the subject of technical assistance to under-developed countries, and I think some of us learned for the first time how many men and women are going abroad for relatively short periods for this purpose.

We feel that Toc H should know much more about conditions in under-developed countries and what is being done to improve them, and would like to suggest that Branches should keep in touch with their local branches of the U.N.A. to find out when anyone who has been abroad to give technical advice has returned to that particular town and might be willing to speak about their experiences. It

might also be useful if Headquarters could pass on information obtained from the head office of U.N.A. through District Teams.

TOM DENT.

*Harpenden, Herts.*

## Service Opportunities

DEAR EDITOR,

It seems to me that Toc H is perhaps not aware of the opportunities for service it has, especially in areas remote from large towns where there are Army camps or R.A.F. stations.

It was as a National Serviceman in Hong Kong that I first came into contact with Toc H. The Branch there catered especially for the needs of Servicemen, and I know how greatly their efforts were appreciated. We were made to feel welcome and at home. Indeed it was largely because of my experience of Toc H overseas that I became a member.

Perhaps the thing that young Servicemen miss most is the personal touch and friendly relationships of home; and this is so both in England and overseas. It is precisely that kind of need that Toc H is, or should be, well equipped to meet. No doubt many Branches are aware of the need and are doing much to meet it, but are all Branches, where the opportunity exists, so aware?

Obviously Toc H cannot hope, nor does it wish to compete with such bodies as the Y.M.C.A.; but it is able to meet a need they

cannot—for they are large, and to some extent, impersonal organisations. Would it be possible, for instance, for Toc H Branches, in areas where there are many Servicemen, to throw open their Branch Rooms on Sunday afternoons to young Servicemen who are known to Toc H? Would it even be possible for members occasionally to entertain Servicemen in their homes?

Above all could Branches contact padres in local camps, letting them know of their existence and anxiety to provide such facilities as suggested above? In this way a permanent link could be established between the Branch and the camps.

This job is well worth doing for its own sake; but there is also the possibility that learning of Toc H in this way more young men might feel moved to join the Movement, and I understand, (and such has been my limited experience), that it is precisely young men that the Movement is lacking.

However that may be—here is a job worth the doing. Is every Branch making full use of its opportunities?

ALAN H. BATCHELOR.  
*Stoke Bishop, Bristol.*

## Christmas Supplement

Many readers have written to say how much they have appreciated the Supplement to the December number of the JOURNAL. Thank-you, everyone, for your most encouraging comments. Here's to the next issue.

ED.

# New Year Competition

## A two-way Readers' Quiz

**M**ANY READERS, on receiving a new number of the JOURNAL, first turn to the item that interests them most. Among the sixteen or so 'ingredients' which make up any single issue are, usually, the ten features listed below. You are asked to place these items in the order in which they appeal to you, marking 1 for your first choice, 2 second and so on up to 10. Having completed the list you are also invited to add, on a separate slip of paper, a suggestion for any further item you would like to see included in the JOURNAL. A 2½d. stamp (unused) must be included with every entry, and book prizes are offered for the best received. Final date for all entries: February 14, 1954.

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Choice

A	FAR CRY, <i>Overseas News</i> .	
B	MULTUM IN PARVO.	
C	BRANCH BRIEFS.	
D	OPEN HUSTINGS, <i>Readers' Letters</i>	
E	EDITORIAL COMMENT.	
F	ARTICLES <i>concerned with Toc H</i> .	
G	ARTICLES <i>on wider field</i> .	
H	VERSE.	
J	A BAG OF BOOKS. <i>Reviews</i> .	
K	DESTINATION POPERINGHE.	

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